

Whereas hearing loss is among the most common congenital birth defects;

Whereas a delay in diagnosing the hearing loss of a newborn can affect the social, emotional, and academic development of the child;

Whereas the average age at which newborns with hearing loss are diagnosed is between the ages of 12 to 25 months; and

Whereas May 2005 is "National Better Hearing and Speech Month", providing Federal, State, and local governments, members of the private and nonprofit sectors, hearing and speech professionals, and all people in the United States an opportunity to focus on preventing, mitigating, and treating hearing impairments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of May 2005 as "National Better Hearing and Speech Month";

(2) commends those States that have implemented routine hearing screenings for every newborn before the newborn leaves the hospital; and

(3) encourages all people in the United States to have their hearing checked regularly.

NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 117 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 117) designating the week of May 9, 2005, as National Hepatitis B Awareness Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I express my support today for an important resolution, S. Res. 117, submitted by Senators FEINSTEIN and SANTORUM along with Senator SANTORUM to designate the week of May 9th as National Hepatitis B Awareness Week.

Hepatitis B is an extremely infectious virus that affects more than 12 million Americans, with 100,000 new cases expected this year. Unfortunately, many people don't even know they have this disease. And by the time they do learn about the disease it with Hepatitis B will develop cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer.

The good news is that we can beat this disease. Scientists have been working for years and have made great strides in the study and treatment of Hepatitis B. As kindergarteners through college students know, there are very effective vaccines available to slow the generational relay of the virus. And just last month the FDA approved a new treatment drug called Baraclade that seeks to alleviate symptoms for those already chronically infected with the virus.

What I surprisingly discovered is that less than 10 percent of people suffering from chronic Hepatitis B infection are receiving treatment. During this week, I strongly urge people to talk to their doctors about Hepatitis B

vaccination, testing, and treatment; to become educated about Hepatitis B, the symptoms, treatments and testing available; and to take steps to educate those around about Hepatitis B. I urge people to take part in the discussions about Hepatitis B during this week. I also wish to applaud those working to make sure that communities and families and individuals are aware of this disease, testing and treatments available. Thank you for all of your dedication and caring.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 117) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 117

Whereas hepatitis B is the most common serious liver infection in the world;

Whereas chronic hepatitis B infections cause 80 percent of all primary liver cancer cases worldwide;

Whereas 10,000,000 to 30,000,000 people will be infected with the hepatitis B virus worldwide in 2005;

Whereas approximately 100,000 people in the United States will become infected with hepatitis B virus this year alone;

Whereas fewer than 10 percent of diagnosed chronic hepatitis B patients in the United States are currently receiving treatment for their disease;

Whereas healthcare and work loss costs from liver disease and liver cancer-caused hepatitis B infections total more than \$700,000,000 annually;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1,250,000 Americans are already infected with hepatitis B and nearly 6,000 will die of liver complications each year;

Whereas a person who has become infected with hepatitis B may not have symptoms for up to 40 years after the initial infection has occurred, and there is currently no routine screening in place for early detection;

Whereas the CDC has identified African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Pacific Islanders, as well as Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, as having higher rates of hepatitis B infection in the United States;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders account for more than half of the chronic hepatitis B cases and half of the deaths resulting from chronic hepatitis B infection in the United States; and

Whereas there is a need for a comprehensive public education and awareness campaign designed to help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage the secondary prevention of the disease and to help increase the length and quality of life for those diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 9, 2005, as "National Hepatitis B Awareness Week";

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities; and

(3) supports raising awareness of the consequences of untreated chronic hepatitis B and the urgency to seek appropriate care as a serious public health issue.

ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 382 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 382) to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 382) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 382

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 49. Animal fighting prohibition

"(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in an animal fighting venture, if any animal in the venture was moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

"(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN STATES.—With respect to fighting ventures involving live birds in a State where it would not be in violation of the law, it shall be unlawful under this subsection for a person to sponsor or exhibit a bird in the fighting venture only if the person knew that any bird in the fighting venture was knowingly bought, sold, delivered, transported, or received in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of participation in the fighting venture.

"(b) BUYING, SELLING, DELIVERING, OR TRANSPORTING ANIMALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, buy, transport, or deliver, or receive for purposes of transportation, in interstate or foreign commerce, any dog or other animal for purposes of having the dog or other animal participate in an animal fighting venture.

"(c) USE OF POSTAL SERVICE OR OTHER INTERSTATE INSTRUMENTALITY FOR PROMOTING ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly use the mail service of the United States Postal Service or any instrumentality of interstate commerce for commercial speech promoting an animal fighting venture except as performed outside the limits of the States of the United States.

"(d) VIOLATION OF STATE LAW.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), the activities prohibited by such subsection shall be unlawful with respect to fighting ventures involving